THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Soldiers Killed in Operation Parakram

†4406. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that 50 soldiers were killed by 15th March, 2002, during the 'Operation Parakaram';

(b) the number of military vehicles and assessories got damaged so far;

(c) the circumstances in which those soldiers were killed and equipments and vehicles damaged; and

(d) whether three Armed Forces are participating in this 'Operation Parakram'?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 176 Army Personnel died during 'OP PRAKARAM' upto 15th March, 2002. Out of this 50 Army Personnel were killed due to vehicle accidents.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

(d) Yes Sir.

4407 . SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news captioned "5 Crore for Jawans goes to school for bigshots" published in the Indian Express dated 31st march, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.